THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India does not pay compensation to passengers offloaded on any flights. However, such passengers are provided with hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call and all meals and are confirmed on the next flight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some foreign airlines pay compensation. However, many airlines do not pay compensation because passengers are not penalised in many way for not travelling on the booked flight or for last-minute cancellations, resulting in heavy no-shows ex-India. Consequently, airlines overbook their flights sufficiently so that they do not operate underload. Since there is no national law on this subject, the denied boarding compensation is governed by the airlines own policy and regulations.

(e) Most airlines in India are following the policy of providing to the offloaded passengers hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call, all meals and the next flight to their destinations.

Fall in passenger load in National Carrier

4955. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger load have fallen in national air carrier because of competition from Jet and Sahara airways; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to come out of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Domestic passengers carried by Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines in the year 2000 and 2001 are as follows:

Year	Domestic Passengers Carried (In Lakhs)		
	Indian Airlines	Jet Airways	Sahara Airlines
2000	62.87	58.13	8.15
2001	60.69	57.19	6.04

Passenger traffic of Indian Airlines and other operators has decreased due to reduction in overall traffic, especially after the events of 11 th September.

World class Airports in Metropolitan Cities

4956. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade international airports in metropolitan cities to the standards of world class airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner these projects are proposed to be financed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) as and when found suitable through long term lease. At present, the airports located at the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata have been taken up for this exercise. The Financial consultant has submitted the Phase-I and II of the reports, regarding Due Diligence and Valuation and Sales Memorandum and Marketing Plan. Pre-Investment meets have been held to brief the prospective bidders. The lessee for the airport shall be selected through a transparent competitive global bid process.

(c) The financing of new infrastructure at these airports will be done by the respective selected airport operator.

Snag in PMs' plane at Singapore Airport

4957. SHRJ AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the fleet of aeroplanes with the Indian Airlines is more than ten years old;

(b) if so, the age-wise details of the aeroplanes;

(c) whether the plane which carried the Prime Minister to Singapore and Cambodia recently developed snags at the Singapore Airport;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken to replace and renew the fleet?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines and its subsidiary Alliance Air have 40 aircraft out of an operating fleet of 57 aircraft that are older than 10 years. Details of age of aircraft in the fleet are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Auxiliary Power Unit of the aircraft carrying the Prime Minister tripped after push back at Singapore. The same was restarted within a few minutes and the aircraft operated the flight with an initial delay of 8 to 10 minutes, which was made up during flight to Phnom Penh.

(e) Indian Airlines is contemplating to acquire 43 aircraft to meet fleet requirements both for replacement and for expansion.